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SHASTA COUNTY MAN INDICTED FOR POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury in Sacramento, returned a two-count indictment charging John Thomas Hancock, 37, of Anderson, California with knowingly possessing child pornography.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel D. White, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that on July 16, 2002, the defendant possessed a computer hard drive which contained visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct which were produced using materials which were mailed shipped, and transported in interstate commerce, and which images had been transported in interstate commerce. In a second count, the Indictment also seeks the forfeiture of the computer used by Hancock to obtain and maintain his pornography collection.

Hancock is currently in custody in Shasta County where he faces charges filed by the Shasta County District Attorney's Office, alleging 10 counts of lewd and lascivious conduct toward a minor female. A trial date of October 7th has been set in that case.

The pending charges are only allegations and Hancock is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for the possession charge is 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and three-year term of supervised release.

This case is the product of an joint investigation by the Anderson Police Department, the Shasta County District Attorney's Office, the Northern California Computer Crimes Task Force, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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